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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/020,892

12/19/2001

Tetsuya Tanaka

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7590

01/05/2007

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EXAMINER

DOAN, DUYEN MY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2152

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/020,892	TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duyen M. Doan	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the submission filed on 10/18/06.

Claims 1,3-5,7-9 are presented for examination. Claims 2,6,10-12 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3-5,7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamo et al (us pat 6,795,124) (hereinafter Gamo) in view Schrock et al (us pat 4,803,553) (hereinafter Schrock) further in view of Nijima (us pat 5,900,914).

As regarding claim 1, Gamo discloses the respective terminal devise comprising vertical synchronizing signal generating means for generating vertical synchronizing signals, and control means for making synchronizing control operations and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signals respectively (see Gamo col.3, lines 57-67; col.4, lines 1-42); the vertical synchronizing signal generating means comprises a vertical synchronizing counter, a horizontal synchronizing counter (see Gamo Fig.2, H counter 25, and V counter 16); the respective terminal devices extract the synchronizing signals from either of broadcasting signals, time reference

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signals and an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices (see Gamo col.1, lines 9-15); and the vertical synchronizing signal generating means of the respective terminal device outputs the synchronizing signal as a vertical synchronizing signal (see Gamo col.3, lines 57-67; col.4, lines 1-42; col.6, lines 49-67); and the control mean of the respective terminal device makes synchronization control operation and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signal or the back-up vertical synchronizing signal (see Gamo col.3, lines 57-67; col.4, lines 1-42; col.6, lines 49-67).

Gamo does not expressly disclose a reset circuit for resetting both the vertical synchronizing counter and the horizontal synchronizing counter; when the synchronizing signal is not extracted, the vertical synchronizing signal generating means of the respective terminal device outputs a back-up vertical synchronizing signal.

Schrock teaches resetting horizontal counter and vertical counter in synchronize with the external signal (see Schrock col.3, lines 36-40, lines 63-67; col.4, lines 1-26; col.8, lines 1-15; col.10, lines 17-25).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Schrock to the system of Gamo to resetting both the vertical synchronizing counter and the horizontal synchronizing counter, because resetting the vertical synchronizing counter and the horizontal synchronizing counter would allow the system to synchronize with the external source (see Schrock col.1, lines 30-40).

The combination of Gamo and Schrock does not disclose generating a back-up synchronizing signal when the synchronizing signal is not extracted.

Niijima teaches generating a back-up synchronizing signal when the synchronizing signal is not extracted (see Niijima col.6, lines 13-67, col.8, lines 42-45, lines 57-62, when the synchronizing signals are lost or error, self generated the back-up signal).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Niijima to the system of Gamo-Schrock to generate the back up vertical synchronizing signal or horizontal synchronizing signal or any kind of signal when the synchronizing signal are not extracted, because by outputting the backup signal would help in producing the normal synchronizing signal even when the composite synchronizing signals are lost (see Niijima col.6, lines 13-24).

As regarding 3, Gamo-Schrock-Niijima discloses the respective terminal devices make the synchronization control, based on synchronizing signals extracted from broadcasting signals of the same channel (see Niijima col.6, lines 13-67, col.8, lines 42-45, lines 57-62). The same motivation was utilized in claim 1 applied equally well to claim 3.

As regarding claim 4, Gamo-Schrock-Niijima discloses when it is difficult to extract the synchronizing signals from the broadcasting signals in one of the respective terminal devices, the channel of the broadcasting signals is changed (see Niijima col.6, lines 13-67, col.8, lines 42-45, lines 57-62). The same motivation was utilized in claim 1 applied equally well to claim 4.

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As regarding claim 5, the limitations are similar to claim 1, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 1.

As regarding claim 7-8, the limitations are similar to claims 3-4, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claims 3-4.

As regarding claim 9, the limitations are similar to claim 1, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,3-5,7-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

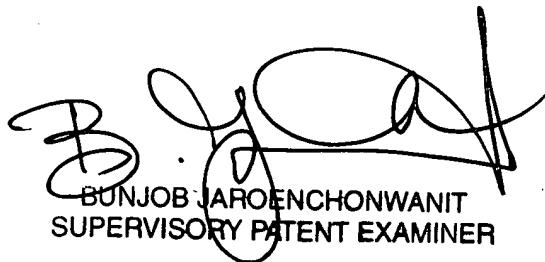
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duyen M. Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob A. Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner
Duyen Doan
Art unit 2152



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER